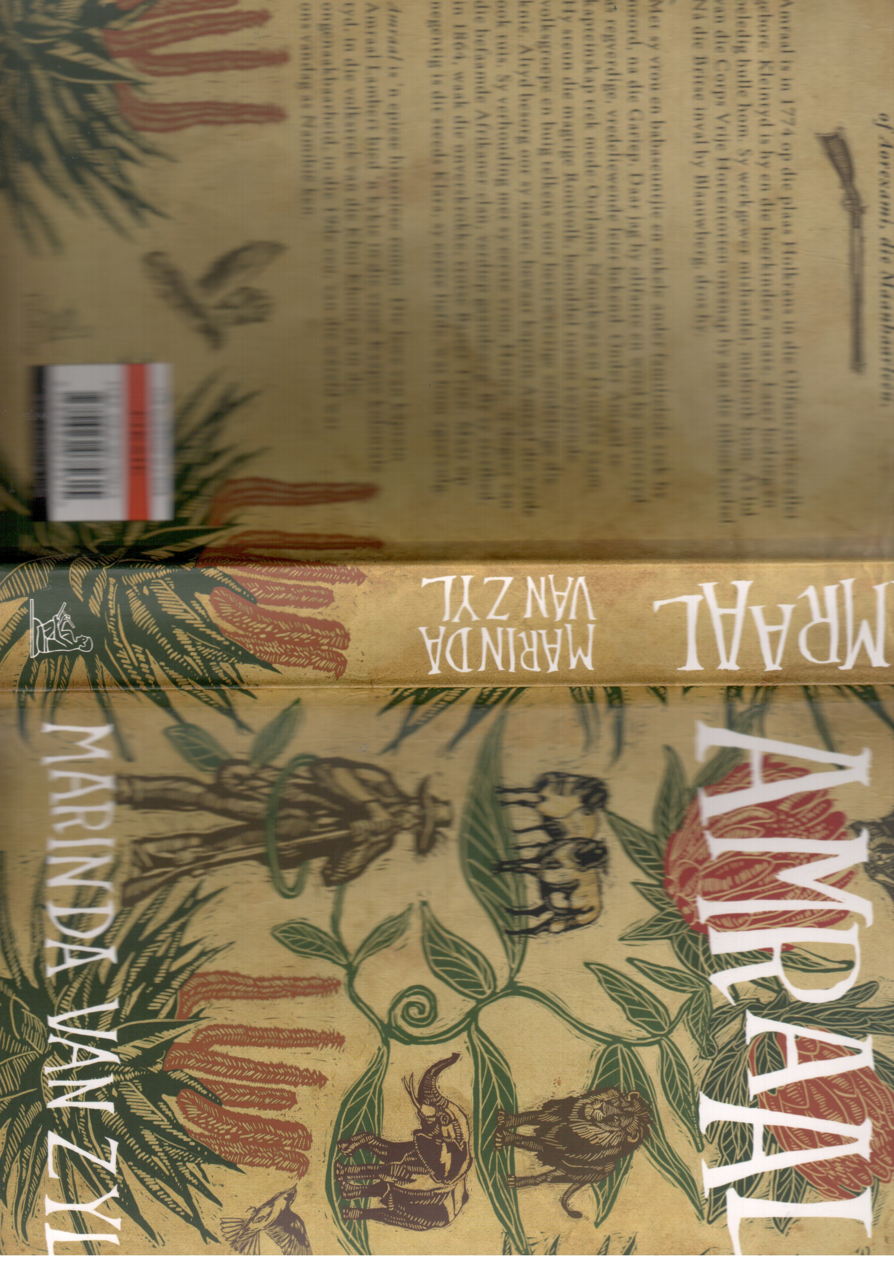
Marinda van Zyl at the launch of her book in Stellenbosch, during the Woordfees. To her right Kenneth Makatees, to her left Horst Kleinschmidt



Amraal was Hinrich se wadrywer en is saam met hom na Bethanie. Nadat Hinrich-hulle Bethanie verlaat het, het Amraal Lambert en sy mense dieper in Namibië ingetrek waar hy bekend geword het as een van die invloedrykste Oorlamkapteins. Die verhaal is op deeglike navorsing uit dokumente van die tyd gegrond en bied heelwat insig in die omstandighede waaronder Hinrich-hulle moes werk en leef. Waar dokumente nie beskikbaar was nie, het ek my verbeelding gebruik volgens die aanvaarbare beginsel in die historiese verhaal van 'dit kon so gebeur het'.



**Amraal Lambert’s**, [Nama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khoekhoe_language) name was **ǂGaiǀnub**, (ca. 1774–13 February 1864). He was the first [Captain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribal_chief) of the Kaiǀkhauan ([Khauas Nama](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Khauas_Nama&action=edit&redlink=1)), part of the [Orlam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oorlam_people) migration to Namibia.

Amraal Lambert was born around 1774 near [Hex River](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hex_River_(Breede_River)&action=edit&redlink=1) in the [Clanwilliam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clanwilliam,_Western_Cape) district in the [Cape Colony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Colony) (today's [South Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa)). A Cape [Khoikhoi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khoikhoi) descendant, his status was little better than that of a slave, and he was forced to work in [Worchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worcester,_Western_Cape) and [Cape Town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Town) in his youth. In 1814 Lambert moved to [Namaland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Namaland) (today's eastern-central Namibia), accompanied by [missionary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missionary) [Hinrich Schmelen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Schmelen), who baptised him in [Bethanie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethanie,_Namibia) in 1815. Schmelen and the Kaiǀkhauan group led by Lambert stayed together for 14 more years but Schmelen closed the missionary station in Bethanie in 1822 and travelled back south. Amraal Lambert travelled north. Lambert accompanied Schmelen on his travel to [Walvis Bay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walvis_Bay) in 1825.

Between 1830 and 1860, Amraal Lambert and his cousin [Jonker Afrikaner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonker_Afrikaner) controlled much of southern and central [South-West Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South-West_Africa). Together they have been described as "super-power[s] in the cattle raiding business". From 1825 onwards Jonker Afrikaner and his council played a dominant political role in [Damaraland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damaraland) and Namaland, creating a [*de facto*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_facto) state.

In 1840 Lambert and his people moved to Naosanabis (today [Leonardville](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonardville,_Namibia)) where they allied with [ǁOaseb](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=%C7%81Oaseb&action=edit&redlink=1), leader of the Khaiǁkhaun ([Red Nation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Nation_(tribe))). In 1855 or 1856 they abandoned Naosanabis and moved to ǂKoabes. Amraal, who spoke only [Afrikaans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrikaans), could not pronounce the [Nama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khoikhoi_language) name for this settlement, and changed it to its now common name [Gobabis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gobabis).

In the 1860s the Kaiǀkhauan were severely weakened in their political and economic power. Their cattle died of lung disease, and [smallpox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smallpox) befell the Nama community at Gobabis. Many members of the Lambert family succumbed to the disease, among them Amraal who died on 13 February 1864 in Gobabis. His grandson [Andreas Lambert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas_Lambert) succeeded him as Captain of the Kaiǀkhauan at the age of 20.